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Poster Presentation P8

FLUORESCENT STUDIES OF PEPTIDIC HEMOGLOBIN BINDING LIGANDS

<u>Chris Brackett</u> and Brian Brennan* Chemistry Department, Illinois Wesleyan University

Sickle cell disease is a disorder that affects red blood cells, causing them to form the characeristic "sickle-shape". My research is focused on studying the interactions between peptidic hemoglobin binding ligands and sickle cell hemoglobin using fluorescence techniques. By better understanding the way in which these ligands interact with the protein surface, we are put in a position to design novel therapeutic agents. I have successfully synthesized ligands, labeled them with a fluorescent molecule, and have begun investigating the ligand-hemoglobin interactions.